

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6078

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0384

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, CVIS, BTRA,UR,US

SUBJECT: VISA FOR AEROFLOT EMPLOYEE

REF: A. STATE 277643; B. MOSCOW 18821

1. SHORTLY BEFORE CHRISTMAS MOSCOW PAN AM REP. DRAHORAD INFORMED EMBASSY THAT MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (MC) HAD OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED PAN AM OF AEROFLOT'S READINESS TO TICKET ANY RESIDENT OF USSR--WHETHER SOVIET CITIZEN OR NOT--FOR FLIGHTS ON PAN AM ROUTES NOT ORIGINATING IN MOSCOW. PAYMENT IN RUBLES BY ALL CATEGORIES OF TRAVELLERS ALSO TO BE PERMITTED.
 2. INTERIM PERIOD SINCE MCA NOTIFICATION HAS PERMITTED PAN AM (AND EMBASSY) TO OBSERVE COMPLIANCE BY AEROFLOT OF THESE OBLIGATION. PAN AM REPS. IN CONVERSTAION WITH EMBOFF JAN. 10 STATED THAT WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN FEW RECENT REQUESTS FOR ONWARD TICKETING ON PAN AM AFTER FIRST STOPOVER OUT OF MOSCOW, IN EACH INSTANCE AEROFLOT HAS TICKETED TRAVELLER WITHOUT QUESTION.
 3. LATEST AEROFLOT STANCE CLEARLY TIED TO MCA INTEREST IN SECURING ZAKHAROV VISA. IN FACT, DRAHORAD STATED HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED BY MCA WHETHER HE PASSED MESSAGE ON TO EMBASSY REGARDING NEW AEROFLOT TICKETING POLICY.
 4. EMBASSY CONTINUES TO HOLD ZAKHAROV PASSPORT AND VISA APPLICATION (PER REFTEL B) AND RECOMMENDS ISSUANCE OF VISA TO HIM. DEPT. COULD ACCOMPLISH THIS WHILE WITHHOLDING FOR TIME BEING FORMAL RESPONSE TO
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SOV. EMBASSY AUGUST 9 NOTE (REF. A), THUS SHOWING SOVIETS THAT WE

STILL HOLD THE MARBLES SHOULD THEY DECIDE TO REVERT TO EARLIER
TICKETING AND OTHER MALPRACTICES. PLEASE ADVISE.
STOESSEL

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NNN

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